

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested. The title, the specification and claims have been amended in response to the objections raised by the examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 as being obvious over Drori in view of the admitted prior art. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the basis that the Examiner has not made out of a prima facie case of obviousness.

Drori pertains to an electronic solid state potentiometer, i.e. one which has no moving parts, whereas the present invention relates to a mechanically adjustable device. Importantly, Dori discusses potentiometers and explains why, for the purposes of that disclosure, mechanically adjustable devices are ruled out. (See col. 1, lines 21-44). Thus, it is submitted that (1) Drori teaches away from the present invention and hence it is immaterial; and (2) since it pertains to solid state potentiometers, there is absolutely no suggestion in it or anywhere else that would suggest or provide motivation to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Drori with the admitted prior art.

Moreover, in relation to claim 1, Drori fails to disclose a potentiometer for providing an output signal indicative of the position of a component. Instead, Drori is configured for use in circuits where, for example, a data processing system must change the value of the variable impedance element in a relatively short time (see col. 1, lines 21-28). In addition, the Drori potentiometer does not have a member moveable relative to a body and having an end portion for coupling to the component. Furthermore, the Drori potentiometer does not have a

wiper coupled to the member and forming a slideable electrical contact to the resistor. Instead, in Drori, the so-called "wiper" involves selective connection to one of a plurality of terminals using transistors, and for this reason the solid state potentiometer can only have a finite or discrete number of outputs or values (see col. 1, lines 46-54.)

Even if the teaching of Drori would be relevant, contrary to the Examiner's position, Drori fails to disclose a "contact means for providing selectable contact positions to said resistor of respective first and second electrical conductors, so as to provide a selected operating section of said resistor." In Drori, it is the wiper terminal 13 which is connected to one or another of the selectable contact position)-m. In Drori, the operating section of the resistor is the entire resistor stack between voltage terminals 11 and 12, and this does not change, whichever contact position 0-m is selected for the wiper terminal 13.

The remaining claims are dependent on independent claim 1 and are allowable for the reasons given above.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced by aforementioned amendment and entry thereof is earnestly solicited.


No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Communication.

However, if any fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to the Deposit Account No. 07-1730, Docket No. 211-263. A duplicate copy of this Communication is attached for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted
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By: _____


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